

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1198

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: EAST BLOC TRAVEL - FAA EMPLOYEE

1. ON MARCH 9, 1978, MR. ROY L. MOUNT, EMPLOYEE OF THE
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, REPORTED TO THE RSO WHAT
MAY HAVE BEEN A HIS APPROACH.

2. EMPLOYEE HAD BEEN GIVEN AS EAST BLOC TRAVEL BRIEFING
BY THE RSO IN EARLY FEBRUARY. PART OF THE BRIEFING COVERS
POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES BY
HOSTILE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. ONE SUCH ENTRAPMENT APPROACH
IS TO ASK AN UNSUSPECTING VICTIM TO TAKE A "GIFT" OUT OF
THE COUNTRY, USUALLY FOR A CLOSE FRIEND OR RELATIVE. THE
"GIFT" IS OFTEN DISGUISED CONTRABAND WHICH, WHEN DIS-
COVERED BY AUTHORITIES, PROVOKES AN INCIDENT THAT IS
BOTH DISTRESSING TO THE VICTIM AND EMBARRASSING TO
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

3. MR. MOUNT REPORTED THAT IT WAS BECAUSE HE REMEMBERED
THIS CAVEAT THAT HE WAS ANXIOUS TO REPORT AN INCIDENT
WHICH HAD SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCH AN APPROACH.

4. DURING THE LAST WEEK IN FEBRUARY, FAA EMPLOYEE
ROY L. MOUNT WAS VISITING BUCHAREST AIRPORT ON OFFICIAL
BUSINESS. HE WAS THERE TO CONDUCT AN AIRPORT EVALUATION.

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WHILE CONDUCTING THIS EVALUATION HE MET WITH THE PAN AM
REPRESENTATIVE, MR. JOSEPH BASSO. MR. BASSO IS THE
DIRECTOR OF PAN AM OPERATIONS IN BUCHAREST AND AS SUCH
HAS THREE LOCAL EMPLOYEES WORKING FOR HIM (JULIAN
MIHAILESCU, RAZUAN IONASCU, AND DAN GAICULESCU).

5. ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 28, 1978, DAN GAICULESCU

PICKED UP MR. MOUNT AT HIS HOTEL AND DROVE HIM TO THE AIRPORT. AT THE AIRPORT, GAICULESCU GOT OUT OF THE CAR, OPENED THE TRUNK AND REMOVED MOUNT'S LUGGAGE. MR MOUNT MADE A MOVE TO CARRY HIS BAGGAGE INTO THE AIRPORT, BUT GAICULESCU ABRUPTLY GRABBED THE BAGS AND STARTED CARRYING THEM INSIDE. BECAUSE OF THIS, MOUNT FELT CERTAIN THAT HE REMEMBERS GAICULESCU AS HAVING ONLY THE LUGGAGE IN HIS HANDS FROM THE CAR TO THE AIRPORT TERMINAL. MOUNT DOES NOT REMEMBER SEEING ANY PACKAGES OR OTHER ITEMS INSIDE THE TRUNK OR ON THE FRONT SEAT OF THE CAR.

6. MOUNT AND GAICULESCU PASSED TWO SECURITY GUARDS AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE TO THE TERMINAL. GAICULESCU SAID SOMETHING IN ROMANIAN TO THEM, AND THEY LET THE TWO PASS BY. ONCE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GUARDS, GAICULESCU SET THE BAGS DOWN AND ASKED MOUNT TO CARRY THEM TO THE TICKET COUNTER, THAT HE (GAICULESCU) WOULD CATCH UP LATER. AFTER SAYING THIS, GAICULESCU TURNED AND WENT TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE TERMINAL AND MOUNT WENT ON TO THE TICKET COUNTER.

7. AT THE TICKET COUNTER MOUNT MET JULIAN MIHAILESCU. MIHAILESCU WAS ARRANGING FOR MR. MOUNT TO BY-PASS THE SECURITY SCREENING WHEN GAICULESCU RETURNED WITH TWO SMALL PACKAGES IN HIS HANDS. THE PACKAGES WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABOUT 7 INCHES BY 5 INCHES AND WRAPPED IN WHITE PAPER. THE PAPER WAS DIRTY AND IT LOOKED TO MOUNT AS IF THE PACKAGES HAD BEEN LYING AROUND ON THE FLOOR FOR SOME TIME.

8. GAICULESCU APPROACHED MOUNT WITH THE PACKAGES AND ASKED, "WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE THESE PACKAGES TO A FRIEND?" MOUNT REPLIED, "I'M NOT PERMITTED TO DO THAT." GAICULESCU ASKED AGAIN, STRESSING A MILD URGENCY ABOUT THE MATTER. MOUNT AGAIN TOLD HIM THAT HE WASN'T PERMITTED TO DO SUCH THINGS. GAICULESCU BACKED OFF AND THE TRIP PROCEEDED THROUGH THE SECURITY SCREENING AREA UNCHECKED.

9. ON THE BUS FROM THE TERMINAL TO THE PLANE, GAICULESCU AGAIN ASKED MOUNT IF HE WOULD TAKE THE PACKAGES. AGAIN MOUNT TOLD HIM NO. ACCORDING TO MOUNT THIS WAS THE LAST TIME GAICULESCU REQUESTED THE FAVOR FROM HIM.

10. ON BOARD THE PLANE, MOUNT MET MR. BASSO AND REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO HIM. MR. BASSO SAID THAT IT

WAS "HIGHLY IRREGULAR" AND THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

11. MOUNT RETURNED TO FRANKFURT ON TUESDAY MARCH 7, 1978.

12. OBSERVATIONS: MOUNT SAID THAT HE WAS CONFUSED BY GAISCULESCU'S REQUEST BECAUSE GAICULESCU NEVER TOLD HIM THE NAME OF THE FRIEND, NOR WHERE, WHEN AND HOW HE WAS TO MAKE THE DELIVERY OF THE "GIFTS." MOUNT WAS FLYING FROM BUCHAREST TO BELGRADE AT THE TIME, ON ALITALIA FLIGHT 553. HE WAS FURTHER SUSPICIOUS BECAUSE HE DIDN'T REMEMBER GAICULESCU HAVING THE PACKAGES WHEN HE GOT OUT OF THE CAR (HE THINKS HE GOT THEM FROM SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BACK ROOM AT THE AIRPORT; NOR DID THEY LOOK LIKE "GIFTS" (THEY WERE DIRTY AND LOOKED BEATEN AND BATTERED).

13. MOUNT REPORTED THAT NO OTHER UNUSUAL INCIDENTS OCCURRED DURING HIS TRIP. LEHMANN

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